

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE PARTIES 2016

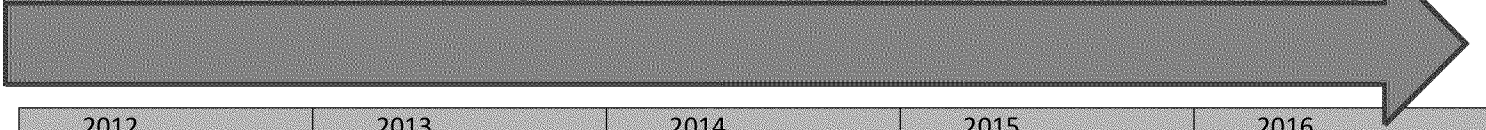
ANNEX 2

LAKEWIDE MANAGEMENT

Overview

In the Lakewide Management Annex of the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), Canada and the United States committed to establishing lake ecosystem objectives, developing and implementing binational strategies, and issuing Lakewide Action and Management Plans and annual reports. Further, the Annex expressly requires Canada and the United States to develop a Nearshore Framework by 2016. On [insert date posted], 2016, Canada and the United States issued a draft Nearshore Framework for public comment.

Progress on Meeting Agreement Commitments



2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Annex Subcommittee Published Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) Annual Reports Identified Lake Ontario Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI) priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized Lake Erie Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) and CSMI priorities Published LAMP Annual Reports Developed Annex workplan and established task teams Convened Extended Subcommittee Developed Annex Binational Science and Action Priorities 2013-16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified Lake Superior CSMI priorities Published LAMP Annual Reports Confirmed LAMP/CSMI reporting rotational schedule Developed Lake Ecosystem Objectives guidance document Outreach and Engagement task team report drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published Lake Superior BCS Identified Lake Huron CSMI priorities Published LAMP Annual Reports Completed Lake Partnership governance framework Completed template for LAMP report Engaged in consultation on draft Lake Superior LAMP Drafted Nearshore Framework Conducted outreach and engagement webinars on a basin-wide basis and for each of the individual lakes Initiated update of Lake Ontario LAMP BCS Implementation Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted draft Nearshore Framework for public comment Published Lake Superior LAMP Formed Outreach & Engagement subcommittees for each Lake Partnership Published LAMP Annual Reports

This annex is implemented by the Lakewide Management Annex Subcommittee, co-led by Environment and Climate Change

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Canada and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Organizations on the subcommittee include: [insert agency logos]

Binational Actions Taken on Key Commitments

The Parties shall document and coordinate management actions through the development of Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMP) for each Great Lake

Having

- confirmed the LAMP reporting rotational schedule in 2014, Canada and the United States undertook the development of the first LAMP under the 2012 GLWQA for Lake Superior. An extended period of public and agency review on the draft LAMP was undertaken.
- The Lake Superior Partnership drew upon foundational documents, including the Lake Superior Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, previously prepared with the help of many interested stakeholders.
- The Partnership assessed Lake Superior and found the lake to be in generally good condition,
- Threats to the ecosystem include chemical contaminants, aquatic invasive species, climate change, habitat destruction, and reduced habitat connectivity between the open lake and the tributaries.
- To address these threats, the LAMP identifies management actions that will help protect and restore the Lake Superior ecosystem. In addition, the Lake Superior Partnership committed to a number of projects over the next 5-year period. Best efforts will be made to implement these projects (subject to available resources) through the cooperation and coordination among Lake Superior Partnership agencies.
- The LAMP also includes current science priorities for the 2016 Lake Superior CSML.

By 2016, develop an integrated nearshore framework which will, when implemented, provide an overall assessment of the state of the nearshore Waters of the Great Lakes, identify nearshore areas of high ecological value and those that are or may become subject to stress, determine cumulative effects and threats and establish priorities for

- At numerous places along the 10,000 mile Great Lakes coastline, nearshore conditions in the lakes have become degraded due to a variety of human-induced, climate induced, and invasive species-induced stressors.

Canada and the United States undertook a three-year process to engage a wide range of people and organizations throughout the Great Lakes basin to develop the nearshore framework. The Framework was developed for the use of the government agencies that comprise the Lake Partnerships charged with developing and implementing LAMPs for each Great Lake, with significant input and participation from a variety of non-governmental stakeholders. The Nearshore Framework is a commitment made by the Parties

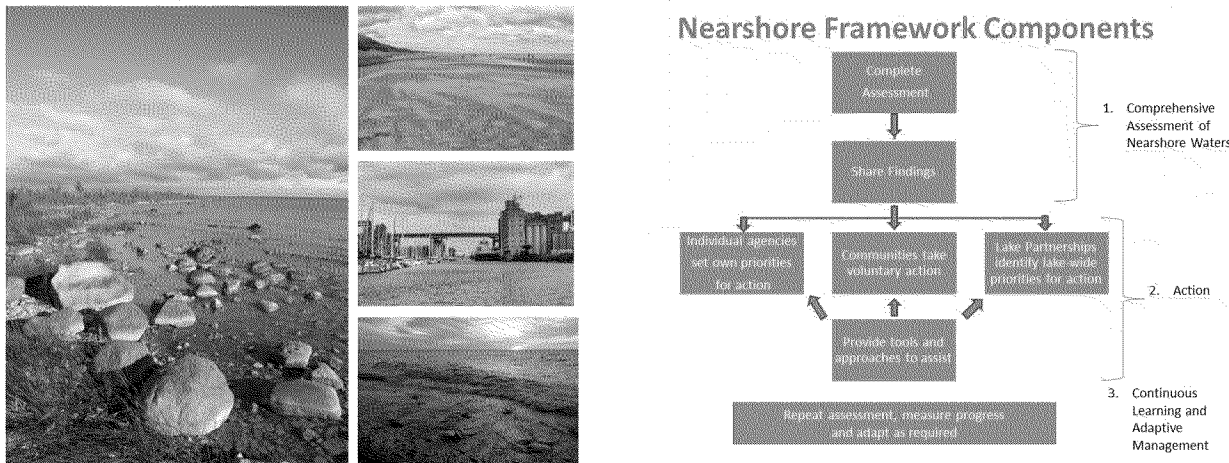
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to:

- provide a comprehensive assessment of nearshore waters;
 - share the information from the assessment;
 - identify areas requiring protection, restoration or prevention activities; and
 - identify causes at a general scale and the agencies responsible for addressing them.
- The responsible agencies can then factor these findings into their priority setting processes and engage and empower communities to create collaborative approaches to addressing the identified issues and take action. The Parties will provide tools and approaches to assist in these collaborative efforts.

The Great Lakes Nearshore Framework



Establish Lake Ecosystem Objectives for each Great Lake, including its connecting river systems, as a benchmark against which to assess status and trends in water quality and lake ecosystem health

- Using direction from the GLWQA, Canada and the United States developed a guidance document for the development of lake ecosystem objectives (LEOs) and a framework which links LEOs to GLWQA general objectives (GOs) as well as indicators.
- The guidance suggests that LEOs should:
 - be practical and attainable/achievable within a 20-year timeframe;
 - provide sufficient direction for implementing LAMP actions;
 - have support from the agencies that implement the programs used to achieve the objective;
 - be based on sound, readily available data, so they can be reported on every 5 years; and
 - taken together, be a comprehensive suite which addresses each GLWQA GO and lake stressor

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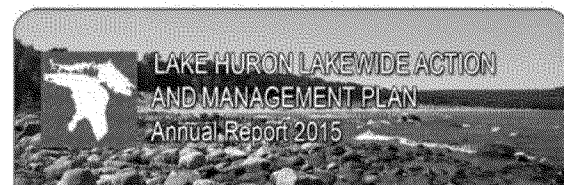
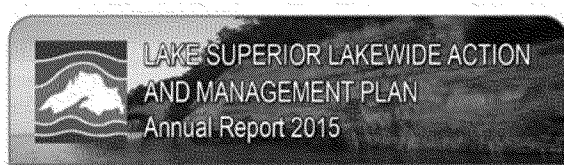
- A binational team was formed to draft, using the guidance, a suite of LEOs for Lake Erie.
- LEOs for the other lakes will be developed during the next reporting cycle.

The Parties, in cooperation and consultation with State and Provincial Governments, Tribal Governments, First Nations, Métis, Municipal Governments, watershed management agencies, other local public agencies, and the Public, shall undertake the lakewide management actions

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- Canada and the United States have undertaken outreach and engagement activities through the work of the Lake Partnerships and the Annex Subcommittee.
- Recommendations and lessons learned were articulated in the Annex 2 Outreach and Engagement Task Team report in 2014.
- In 2015 eight webinars involving over 800 participants were held to update the basin-wide and individual lake stakeholder communities about Annex 2 progress, and to discuss possible approaches to outreach and engagement. Outreach and Engagement Subcommittees were formed under each Lake Partnership to develop and implement an outreach and engagement strategy for each lake
- LAMP Annual reports were issued to provide an overview of accomplishments and challenges facing



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What is the Lake Huron LAMP?

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the governments of Canada and the United States have committed to restore and maintain the physical, biological and chemical integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes.

This Lake Huron Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) will be a binational action plan for restoring and protecting the Lake Huron shoreline. The LAMP will be developed and implemented by the Lake Huron Partnership, which is led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada and which facilitates information sharing, sets priorities, and assists in coordinating binational environmental protection and restoration activities. This plan is the first LAMP to be

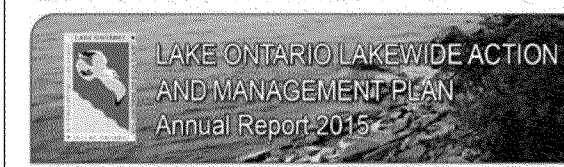
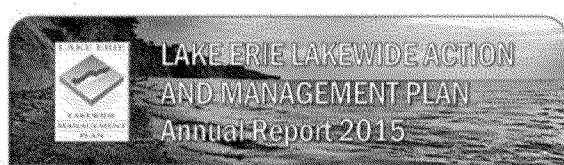
Overview

With its land and waterscapes evolving through the interacting forces of water, geology and climate, Lake Huron and its watershed have been shaped into an area of global ecological significance. Lake Huron is renowned for its beaches, dunes, rugged shorelines, coastal wetlands, diverse river systems, forests and more than 30,000 islands. Conserving this precious resource is important to maintaining its enormous social, recreational and economic benefits.

The Lake Huron Partnership is expanding its work to be fully consistent with all other Great Lakes in preparing its first Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) in 2015. The priorities of the Partnership are to continue to study, report on, and address key issues such as contaminants in fish and wildlife, biodiversity and ecosystem change, fish and wildlife habitat, and localized domestic water quality issues including beach closings and algal fouling.

The Lake Huron Partnership's 2015 Annual Report provides information and updates on:

- Turning community interest into environmental action;
- Restoring fish populations and spawning habitat;
- Cleaning up of contaminated sediment in the Titabawassee River Floodplain; and
- The St. Marys River Area of Concern and the Spanish Harbour Area in Recovery.



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The Lake Ontario Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) is a binational action plan for restoring and protecting the Lake Ontario ecosystem. The LAMP is developed and implemented by the Lake Ontario Partnership, which is led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment Canada and which facilitates information sharing, sets priorities, and assists in coordinating binational environmental protection and restoration activities. The next Lake Ontario LAMP will be issued in 2017. In the interim, the Lake Ontario Partnership will be assessing the state of the lake, measuring progress against existing LAMP goals and objectives, and providing management actions to address identified problems.

This 2015 annual report highlights accomplishments and progress in achieving LAMP goals during the past year and identifies LAMP-related activities including outreach, monitoring, and protection and restoration actions.

Overview

In 2015, the Lake Ontario Partnership continued its efforts to address important lakewide stressors and worked cooperatively to protect and restore water quality and ecosystem health. This was accomplished through a series of priority actions and programs, including the Binational Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BBCS), the Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI), reducing critical pollutants, restoring fish species and a productive food web, improving environmental quality of nearshore ecosystems and coastal wetlands, and undertaking outreach and communication activities.

Accomplishments

Fisheries Research and Monitoring in Lake Ontario

Lake Ontario is home to an exceptional and diverse salmon and trout fishery. Chinook Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Coho Salmon are important species in both the open waters of Lake Ontario and its tributaries (as fish migrate up the tributaries to spawn). The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) have regularly surveyed the amount of fishing activity on the open waters of Lake Ontario for over 30 years. The NYSDEC surveyed the amount of fishing activity in New York's Lake Ontario tributaries from 2005-2007 and in 2011-2012. OMNRF just completed the first-ever comprehensive survey of the amount of fishing activity on Canadian tributaries to Lake Ontario. These surveys show that fishing activity on Lake Ontario's tributaries has increased, while fishing activity on Lake Ontario itself has decreased. In fact, the most recent NYSDEC survey showed that the amount of annual fishing activity on tributaries is two times greater than the amount of fishing activity on the lake itself. The Salmon River (Oswego County, N.Y.) is by far the largest fishery on the U.S. side of the lake, accounting for approximately 50% of the total fishing activity in New York tributary waters.

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- each lake

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